

REMARKS

Claims 4, 8 and 9 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by WIRZ (U.S. Patent No. 4,974,754).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 4, 8 and 9 recite, inter alia, “a discharge pressure regulating device for regulating a discharge pressure of said viscous material by increasing and decreasing a capacity of said pressurized chamber when said viscous material inside said pressurized chamber is pressurized and discharged.”

Applicants submit that WIRZ lacks any disclosure of *a discharge pressure regulating device which regulates a discharge pressure of viscous material by increasing and decreasing a capacity of a pressurized chamber from which the viscous material is discharged.*

Applicants submit that diaphragm 4 and actuator 9 in the system of WIRZ, which vary the volume of the metering chamber 3, do not constitute a *discharge pressure regulating device* as recited in the claims. In this regard, Applicants note that the metering chamber 3 in WIRZ is a “metering” chamber which meters out an amount of

material for discharge, and that the diaphragm 4 and actuator 9 merely change the volume of the metering chamber 3 in order to adjust the amount of material for discharge. Note, for example, column 3, lines 8-12 and 63-65; and column 5, line 67 through column 6, line 8. In other words, the volume of the metering chamber 3 is varied in order to adjust the discharge amount, and not to *regulate the discharge pressure*. Accordingly, the diaphragm 4 and actuator 9 do not *regulate the discharge pressure*. Further, as discussed in WIRZ, and as shown in Fig. 4 of WIRZ, the diaphragm 4 also functions to open and close the inlet opening 5 and the outlet opening 6 of the metering chamber 3. Note column 5, lines 23-58. However, as discussed above, the diaphragm 4 and actuator 9 in WIRZ are clearly not a *discharge pressure regulating device*.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper at least for each and certainly for all of the above-noted reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshinori MIMURA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Daniel B. Moon
Reg. No. 48,214

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191